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OFFICE OF COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION

SECURITY BRANCH

16 April 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

Subject: Request for Certain FBIB material by Private Individuals.

1. Colonel White, FBIB, called this afternoon and stated that the attorneys of P. G. Wodehouse, the British writer who was interned by the Nazis during the war and did several broadcasts for them, have approached the War Department with a view to obtaining recordings of transcripts of Mr. Wodehouse's broadcasts in connection with the British author's efforts to clear his name.

2. The War Department's reply, which was being prepared for the Secretary's signature apparently stated that the War Department did not have primary cognizance of the matter but that the recordings were on file in the National Archives under FBIB control and that transcripts could, no doubt, be obtained from the CIG. Colonel White inquired (a) whether it was desirable for the attorneys to address the CIG directly in the matter and (b) whether the material, which is unclassified, should be released.

3. Investigation reveals that the National Archives is the proper public repository for non-current material released to it by the several agencies of the government and is the proper recipient of an inquiry such as that made by Mr. Wodehouse's attorneys. Since there are adequate measures within the National Archives for the control of the material upon the releasing agencies have placed restrictions, and since there appears in this case to be no objection to the release of copies of the material in question, it was agreed that Colonel White would ask his War Department contact to omit mention of the CIG in the proposed letter and to suggest that the attorneys approach the National Archives direct.

Chief, Security Branch

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